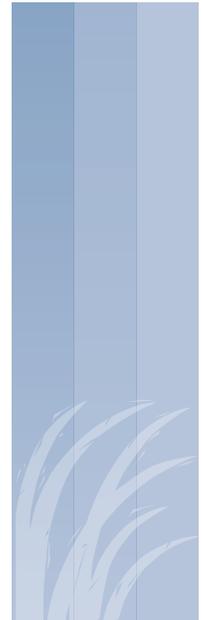


coastal training program

Through the Coastal Training Program, National Estuarine Research Reserves address critical coastal resource management issues by providing the most up-to-date scientific information, access to technologies and skill-building opportunities to key professional audiences responsible for making decisions about coastal resources. Topical areas relate to coastal habitat conservation and restoration, biodiversity, water quality and sustainable resource management. Programs target a range of audiences, such as land-use planners, elected officials, regulators, land developers, community groups, environmental non-profits, business and applied scientific groups.

As part of CTP, reserves conduct market analysis to determine training niches and identify the extent and scope of regional training providers and audiences. Audience assessments provide important data for program development, such as how to best reach and educate key groups, and the identification of specific knowledge, information and skill-training needs. In addition, reserves establish coordinating committees, including representatives from state Coastal Programs and Sea Grant College Programs, to provide ongoing direction and to develop strategies for partnering with regional organizations in specific program delivery.

Programs are developed in a variety of formats, ranging from seminars, hands-on skill training, participatory workshops, lectures and technology demonstrations. Participants benefit from opportunities to share experiences and network in a multidisciplinary setting, often with a reserve-based field activity.



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